Faith for Life

Lesson 2 – Why Faith?

1. Ours is an age of doubt, skepticism and outright antagonism toward God and Christianity. Christians are daily confronted with confrontational unbelief.
	1. Some are struggling with a faith weakened by doubt.
	2. To survive, each disciple must daily work to deepen his faith so that it will be strong enough to face the challenge.
2. Christianity is a religion of Faith.
	1. One aspect of faith is that there is some quantity that is unknown. “Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen” (Heb. 11:1).
		1. However, the fact that there is some unknown or unseen quantity involved does not mean that faith is based on a complete lack of information.
		2. As a matter of fact, faith requires information.
			1. “So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God” (Rom. 10:17).
				1. Saving faith is built upon the evidence of God's word (Rom. 10:17).
			2. “By faith we understand that the worlds were framed by the word of God” (Heb. 11:3).
			3. Sufficient evidence for strong and vibrant faith is available. The problem is our utilization of it.
		3. Any belief or act that is not based on some knowledge cannot truly be called faith.
	2. "Christian evidences" is a study of those facts and that information that confirm the reliability and truthfulness of the Christian claims. It further suggests the ability to give an adequate defense of one's faith.
3. The Benefits of a Strong Faith
	1. There are countless reasons for seeking strong faith:
		1. There is great joy in believing (Philippians 1:25), but not in doubt and fear;
		2. Faith gives us victory over Satan and the wicked world (1 John 5:4);
		3. Faith makes the hope of heaven a sure conviction (Hebrews 11:1);
			1. John 14:1-4 – “Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in Me. In My Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know.”
		4. With deep faith we are able to help those who are struggling with doubt and unbelief;
		5. It will give us confidence in speaking of the faith to others. With Paul we can affirm, "I believed, and therefore did I speak ... " (2 Corinthians 4:13);
	2. With strong faith we can show just how weak the arguments of our opponents are.
		1. "Above all taking the shield of faith wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked" (Eph. 6: 16).
		2. "... fight the good fight of faith, lay hold of eternal life" (1 Tim. 2: 12).
4. Why Faith?
	1. Since man sinned, faith has been an essential principal in man's redemption.
		1. “But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder to them that diligently seek him” (Heb. 11:6).
	2. Faith is so vital in man's redemption that the gospel of redemption is called "the faith."
		1. "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for 'the faith' which was once delivered unto the saints" (Jude 3).
		2. Thus the objective basis of redemption is called "the faith."
		3. This ties together revelation on which faith rests and the essentiality of faith.
			1. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Romans 10: 17).
	3. The obedience of faith is not only the way to heaven; it is the way of life here on earth.
		1. The blunder of multitudes is the failure to understand this vital truth.
		2. One of the reasons so many in the church are so lukewarm in service and unhappy in life is that they think that faith has to do only with the way to heaven and that it has no connection with daily living.
		3. Many Christians may not be conscious of their problem but I think the previous statement well describes the trouble.
	4. Faith is a way of living as well as the way of salvation.
	5. Faith is to be exercised every day and in all relationships and activities.
	6. Faith is not something that is to be limited to the way one becomes a Christian and worships.
	7. Faith is to be a way of life at home, at work, and at play.
	8. In short, faith is the controlling principle of the life of a Christian.
5. Lesson 3, we will discuss who we place our faith in.